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March 2, 2008

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

March 2, 2008

Back to Purdue -- sort of

J. Eric Dietz, Indiana's director of the Department of Homeland Security, is going back to Purdue University. Not that he ever left.

Though Dietz was working in state government, heading a state agency, he remained an employee of Purdue, which continued to pay his salary of \$106,569 a year.

Dietz is among a handful of state employees being paid by something other than the budget for their agency. Dietz told The Star in the fall that the arrangement was made in part so that he would not lose tuition breaks for his children at Purdue.

State law allows for the sharing of employees in some cases, generally in order to tap expertise at universities or other government agencies. Dietz had been managing director of Purdue's Homeland Security Institute, and will return to the institute and also to his role as a tenured faculty member in Purdue's College of Technology.

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Chronicle-Tribune

CLASS ACTS: Colleges/Universities

Ivy Tech Community College

- Ivy Tech Community College's Marion campus will offer its first Emergency Medical Technician course beginning March 17. The Basic EMT-B course will run March 17 through June 28, from 5 to 9 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays and some Saturdays at the new campus, 261 S. Commerce Drive. With increased demand for EMTs in the Emergency Medical Services, this course is considered to be a good first step for individuals interested in pursuing a career in the emergency services field.

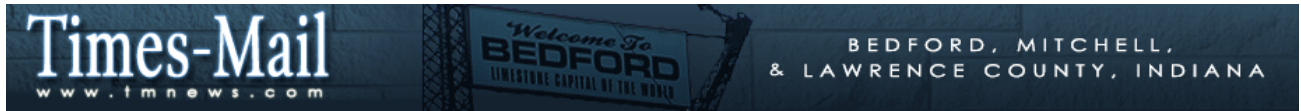
Curriculum includes 140 hours of lecture and lab, 40 hours of ambulance practicum experience and 24 hours of emergency room clinical experience and the state practical exam. Upon successful completion of the course, students will earn 7.5 hours of college credit and be eligible to take the Indiana Department of Homeland Security EMS written and practical exams.

Course packets are available at the Marion campus. Course fees are \$800.54, plus the cost of the books, a skills DVD, the state practical exam and the state written exam. Partial funding may be available through the local Work One office.

For additional information, contact Jennifer Buchanan or Jasmine Hamilton, 1-800-280-7157, ext. 2221.

Originally published March 2, 2008

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Flood watch, warning in effect

Times-Mail

March 3, 2008

BEDFORD — A flood watch and a flood warning are in effect for Lawrence County.

The watch deals with short-term flooding from rainfall.

As much as 2 inches of rain could fall in the next 24 hours or so, according to the National Weather Service.

The watch is in effect from this afternoon until Tuesday afternoon.

The warning is prompted by longer-term concerns about river flooding.

The flood warning is in effect from Tuesday morning until further notice.

At 7 a.m. today in Williams, the East Fork of the White River was at 4.5 feet. Flood stage is 8 feet. The river is expected to reach 9.8 feet by Sunday evening. Ind. 450 closes when the river reaches 12 feet.

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Flooding Rains, Ice Threaten Indiana

Flood, Winter Storm Watches Posted

POSTED: 6:36 am EST March 3, 2008

UPDATED: 12:26 pm EST March 3, 2008

INDIANAPOLIS -- A flood watch and winter storm watch has been posted for portions of Indiana as a strong low-pressure system moves toward Indiana.

Rain rolled into central Indiana before noon. As much as 3 inches of rain could fall in torrential downpours Monday evening and early Tuesday morning.

As the rain falls, a cold front will also push through the state from northwest to southeast. That front will be the dividing line between warm and much cooler air.

The winter storm watch is in effect from Monday evening through Tuesday afternoon for areas along and north of a Terre Haute to Indianapolis to Muncie line.

In the northern half of the state, the front is expected to usher in colder temperatures as rain continues to fall.

Temperatures are expected to dip slightly below freezing, prompting concerns of an ice storm.

As much as a quarter-inch of ice could fall in the northern half of the state before temperatures again rise slightly above freezing on Tuesday afternoon.

Later Monday, that watch could possibly be upgraded to a warning or dropped altogether, depending upon the track the low-pressure system takes.

Flooding concern is especially high across northern parts of Indiana, where snowmelt could couple with heavy rain to cause more river flooding along the Tippecanoe and Wabash rivers.

Stay with Storm Team 6 and TheIndyChannel.com for the latest weather information.

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This is Severe Weather Preparedness Week

By wibc.com

3/3/2008

Governor Mitch Daniels has proclaimed March 2-8 as Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Indiana.

The National Weather Service, in conjunction with the Indiana State Police, Indiana State Emergency Management, the Indiana School System, the broadcast media across Indiana, and Amateur Radio Operators will conduct a statewide test of communication systems on Wednesday, March 5 between 10:30 and 11:00am and between 7:00 and 7:30pm.

The goal of severe weather preparedness week is to better educate people about the hazards of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes.

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Sandbags ready as flood concerns raised again along Tippecanoe

By BOB SCOTT

bscott@journalandcourier.com

The National Weather Service is predicting possible lowland flooding of the Tippecanoe and Wabash rivers in Carroll, White and Tippecanoe counties.

Snowmelt combined with rainfall is expected to cause the flooding.

The White County Emergency Management Agency is giving out filled sandbags in anticipation of flooding tonight and Tuesday. Rain and snow are forecast.

Director Gordon Cochran said 3,600 bags are available 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Twin Lakes Sewer District office at 5636 N.W. Shafer Drive in Monticello.

"We're taking precautions," Cochran said. "If people are concerned, they should put the sandbags out now.

"You can't put bags out when the water is already there."

Cochran said that Northern Indiana Public Service Co. is "dumping" more than 9,000 cubic feet a second at the Norway Dam and more than 11,000 cubic feet a second at the Oakdale Dam.

Mark Kirby of Tippecanoe Emergency Management Agency said that the snowmelt and rain will cause the Wabash River to crest at about 16.5 feet on Wednesday afternoon.

He said TEMA is taking a "wait and see" approach.

"State Road 225 might go under, but that should be the only major road affected," Kirby said today.

"Flood stage in Lafayette is 11 feet for the Wabash. It was 10.5 feet this morning," he said.

Read more in Tuesday's Journal & Courier.

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Flood watch declared for local counties

Palladium-Item

Wayne, Union and Fayette counties in Indiana and Preble County in Ohio are under a flood watch from Monday evening until Tuesday evening, according to the National Weather Service.

Prolonged and steady rainfall, heavy at times, is possible through Tuesday. One to two inches of rain is expected in the area with higher amounts possible.

Originally published March 2, 2008

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Published March 01, 2008 08:59 pm - Before April showers and May flowers, Indiana kicks off spring with March Severe Weather Preparedness Week.

8:57 p.m.: Preparedness in tornado season

By Crystal Ingram

Before April showers and May flowers, Indiana kicks off spring with March Severe Weather Preparedness Week. While tornadoes are not limited to springtime, it is the time when the chance for severe weather peaks.

Frank Dick is Anderson's director of emergency management and the facilitator of new emergency sirens for the city.

"Two new sirens were installed last year, and we have the equipment for two more, but no installation date yet," Dick said.

The new sirens are slated for installation at the intersections of 46th Street and Columbus Avenue, and 25th and Dewey streets, Dick said. The city will get two more sirens next year.

Each siren has an audible reach of about one mile, and the new ones are being placed in locations where the original sirens' sounds were weakest, Dick said.

Another safety measure the city observes is acting as a liaison between the county and the National Weather Service by sending out severe weather spotters, Dick said. The program is called Anderson Sky Warn and a trained team of emergency personnel and volunteers are dispatched throughout the area during severe weather. The teams communicate by using ham radios on a shared frequency, he added.

The city will also be cooperating with the National Weather Service in a statewide emergency test. On Wednesday, residents can expect to hear the sirens sound once just after 10:30 a.m. and again after 7 p.m. to check communication and response time between the National Weather Service and Indiana communities.

Anderson Community Schools will also be participating in some severe weather emergency preparation for the unpredictable spring weather.

Mark Hodson, the principal at Tenth Street Elementary School, said the schools have two tornado drills each semester. The school has 561 students enrolled, and Hodson said they are able to have them all in position in under two minutes. The children must walk quietly to their designated location, brace themselves against the wall and protect their heads and necks with their arms. Hodson added that the schools cannot release children until the warning has been canceled.

Timothy L. Holbert, safety director for Anderson Community Schools, said that the school system has incorporated several new systems in its safety program.

“This year we went to an instant messaging system called Honeywell,” Holbert said. “We can now send an e-mail or phone message to every employee, parent and guardian within four to five minutes for any emergency.”

Messages received from the National Weather Service or local police department can be relayed through Honeywell, emergency radios and/or Sprint phones to every school.

Holbert said that crisis management books have been prepared that are building-specific for each school, so that emergency responders can react faster, and all corporation employees had to attend a safety and crisis workshop in August.

The Anderson Emergency Management Agency recommends that, during severe weather, residents keep their radios turned on for updates. Anderson’s designated emergency alert station is WQME-FM 98.7.

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Chronicle-Tribune

Severe Weather Preparedness Week

To focus Hoosiers' attention on the threats posed by tornadoes and thunderstorms, Governor Mitch Daniels has proclaimed March 2-8, 2008, as Severe Weather Preparedness Week.

The National Weather Service will conduct a statewide test of communication systems on Wednesday, March 5, between 10:30 a.m. and 11a.m. EST and between 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. EST.

Friday March 7 is the make-up drill day if weather postpones Wednesday's drill.

These tests should be used as times to practice your plan.

The goal of Severe Weather Preparedness Week is to better educate people about the hazards of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, and to help everyone be prepared should severe weather occur.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is offering these tips during times of severe weather.

Tornado Safety Tips

Basements, inner rooms of a house, and storm cellars provide the best protection.

Stay away from exterior walls, windows, and doors. Stay in the center of the room.

If you are in your car do not try and outrun the tornado because it can switch direction and can cover lots of ground quickly.

Get out of vehicle and go into a strong building if possible. If not, lie flat in a ditch or low area and cover your head.

Do not go under overpasses, wind speeds actually increase under them and can suck you out.

If you live in a mobile home, get out immediately. Take shelter in a building with a strong foundation.

Listen to radio or watch TV so you can be alerted about your current situation.

Thunderstorm Safety Tips

If a thunderstorm is coming postpone or cancel outdoor activity.

Do not go near tall trees or any other tall objects.

Seek shelter inside a building or in a hardtop vehicle, but don't touch any of the metal inside.

Do not use the telephone. Stay away from other electronic devices, bare metal, and water.

Do not go near downed power lines.

Keep your eye on the sky as well listen to weather reports on the radio or TV.

If caught out in the middle of a large body of water, return to shore as soon as possible. Get off the water immediately.

If caught out in middle of an open field: If walking with others stay a minimum of 10 feet apart; Also, keep low and move quickly to seek shelter. If there is no shelter lay in a ditch or get to the lowest place around.

For more information about preparedness for severe weather and other emergencies, go to www.in.gov/dhs/3638.htm.

Originally published March 3, 2008

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Planning for severe weather should happen year-round

By A.J. Nelson | anelson@reportert.com
Monday March 3, 2008

Morgan County

This week, beginning today, is Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Indiana, but local emergency officials say you should plan all year long for how to deal with bad weather events, and constantly update plans and emergency kits.

That's according to Morgan County Emergency Management Agency Director Jeff Neal, who said a grant received by the county this year should help improve local education efforts to help people plan for the worst.

Neal said the county has been awarded a \$4,000 Department of Homeland Security grant to start a local Citizens Corps program, a group of volunteers who would handle public education programs.

"Giving them (residents) a better understanding of what happens during a disaster," Neal said. "Anything that we can do to be more prepared (is the goal)."

Neal said he hopes the Citizens Corps would primarily work through the school systems, providing education programs and packets to send home with children.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the Citizens Corps should contact Neal at 765-342-8467.

As part of Severe Weather Awareness Week, there will be a statewide tornado drill Wednesday, between 10:30 and 11 a.m., and again between 7 and 7:30 p.m. to test the state-wide emergency alert system.

Neal said in the case of severe weather, it was important that everyone understand the difference between a tornado watch and a warning. A watch means conditions are right for a tornado or other wind events to happen, while a warning means a possible tornado has been sighted, either by a weather spotter or on radar.

"There's a lot of times when they'll put out a warning, and we don't get anything," Neal said. "People kind of get relaxed and don't take it as seriously as they ought to."

Particularly when there is a warning, Neal said it was important to listen to radio or TV weather, or even better, a NOAA-approved Weather Alert Radio, which cost around \$35 and are always available at electronic stores like Radio Shack.

He said preparing a disaster kit and updating it every six months was also recommended for every household.

Disaster kits should contain first aid supplies, a manual can opener, flashlights and batteries, but most important was for the kit to contain water and non-perishable food, enough for each person in the household for at least three days. In terms of water, that equaled one gallon per person, per day.

"It may take rescuers that long to get to you (during a disaster)," Neal said, pointing to the 2002 tornado that hit Martinsville. "There was no way would could have searched every home (that was damaged during the tornado) in a day."

Neal said the food and water should be replaced every six months, to prevent it from becoming stale, and was a good opportunity for the household to review and update plans.

"You want to sit down with your family and discuss them (emergency plans)," Neal said. "Draw them out on paper, and keep that where it's accessible."

Neal said it was also a good idea to maintain a list of emergency contact numbers and a list of medical information that emergency responders and doctors might need if someone were injured.

Neal didn't recommend keeping any prescription drugs in disaster kits, only common, over the counter pain and cold medicines. But he did say keeping prescription drugs together, like in a box where they can be quickly picked up, was a good idea.

Neal said at last year's Morgan County Fair, EMA volunteers handed out a survey for residents to tell the emergency managers what they were interested in the most in regards emergency planning.

Neal said the top three answers were; more emergency warning sirens, access to weather alert radios, and more public education on planning for severe weather and disasters.

Neal said EMA was also looking for at least another 10 volunteers for its Certified Emergency Response Team (CERT), another community volunteer group that would help respond in the event of a severe weather event or disaster.

Neal said EMA has more CERT response backpacks to distribute to volunteers for the group, who, when activated, would assist emergency responders by giving victims first aid, shut off gas and water utilities to damaged structures and help put out very small fires.

Anyone wishing to be a CERT volunteer in Morgan County should contact Steve Brock, EMS coordinator for Brown Township Fire Department, at (317) 831-6366.

Disaster planning information is also available through EMA, by contacting Neal at (765) 342-8467.

[***Back to Martinsville***](#)

Noblesville DAILY TIMES



Serving Hamilton County

Weather Alert Radios arrive just in time

Written by Rebecca Sandlin, on 03-03-2008 09:23

Some folks around these parts have plenty of stories to tell when you mention the word “tornado.” Sheridan Fire Department Chief Bret Merriman said people still recall when the killer Palm Sunday tornadoes ripped through the county April 11, 1965. One hundred and thirty seven Hoosiers died in the state’s worst tornado disaster ever.

That’s why the chief was pleasantly surprised and more than pleased to learn his fire department, and five others in Hamilton County were the recipients of 20 NOAA weather/all-hazards alert radios, to be distributed to local citizens living in areas deemed high-risk in the event of severe weather.

“Anytime you get severe weather, you need to be alert as to the weather conditions,” Merriman said. “Having those radios in homes is very important.”

The gift to Merriman’s fire department and to Cicero, Jackson Township, Atlanta, Westfield and White River Township fire departments is the result of a \$4,000 grant recently awarded to Hamilton County from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

County Emergency Management Agency Director of Operations David Bice used the funds to buy 120 weather radios from the Noblesville H.H. Gregg store and then dropped the radios off to the local fire chiefs.

“These departments will disburse these radios to local citizens they feel are the most at risk within their jurisdictions,” Bice said. “There are a lot of places – trailer parks, for example – where having an all-hazards weather alert radio will save lives in a severe weather event.”

Bice said the Westfield Fire Department plans to pass radios out to residents in Eagletown, who do not live within earshot of outdoor warning sirens like residents in more populated areas of the fire district do.

Merriman said he plans to disperse the radios his department receives in the Boxley area, where there are mobile home settlements more susceptible to severe storm damage than other structures.

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Published: February 29, 2008 08:01 pm

Red Cross offering severe weather education workshops

By Crystal Garcia

The Tribune-Star

TERRE HAUTE — There were a few “small tornados” Friday in the second grade classes of Franklin Elementary School.

Several 2-liter bottles attached together, filled with colored water and debris, allowed the children to create their own mini-tornados.

American Red Cross Wabash Valley Chapter worker Stephanie Land was in the classrooms informing students about preparing for a tornado and what to do during a tornado or “super storm.”

“It was a hands-on opportunity,” said Linda Afdahl, a second grade teacher at Franklin. “[The Red Cross worker] kind of touched on all their senses as far as teaching them and trying to connect with all types of learners.”

Other things the worker did with the children was to show them an emergency kit and how to prepare one at home that include things such as blankets and water. She also showed a weather video and talked about the importance of parents having an emergency plan so that everyone knows what to do, Afdahl said.

It was the first time Afdahl had a Red Cross representative in her classroom, but said she plans to ask them to return and would recommend having them in other classrooms.

She said her students loved the presentation.

“This [program] really fit our curriculum,” Afdahl said. “It was just a joy for us to have her, we would love to have her back.”

Red Cross members were initially scheduled to go to the school two weeks ago, but when the Valley was struck by its own super storm, their attention was diverted else where.

Afdahl said she was happy that the Red Cross representative could even make it two weeks later, because she thought there could still be some aftermath.

Still, this time of year was fitting for the program because Gov. Mitch Daniels proclaimed next week Severe Weather Preparedness Week, according to a Red Cross news release.

Another workshop is scheduled for Monday at the Clay City Elementary School, in which a Red Cross representative will spend the day there.

“We do all kinds of free education in the elementary schools in the counties that we serve,” said executive director Carol Stevens. “Right now, we’re concentrating on tornado tips because we’re moving into the nasty weather season.”

Other workshops the Red Cross offer include fire safety, the importance of clean hands and basic aid training, Stevens said.

[**Back to Terre Haute**](#)



Farmers facing debris cleanup from winter flooding

Associated Press - March 3, 2008 2:54 PM ET

MONTICELLO, Ind. (AP) - Winter flooding has left some northern Indiana farmers with large amounts of debris and ice on their fields as they begin preparing for spring field work.

Most of White County farmer Mike Lehe's fields were covered by water during an early January flood. When the water receded, it left behind piles of corn and bean stalks up to 2 feet thick in places.

Farmers must decide whether to try to remove the stalks or attempt to spread them more evenly around their fields.

State officials say the flooding that began January 7th damaged more than 800 homes and caused more than \$33 million in damage.

President Bush has approved federal disaster aid for 21 counties in the area roughly from Lafayette to South Bend and Fort Wayne.

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